

Graffiti : Prevent it - Report it - Remove it

The City of Ottawa and the Ottawa Police Service held the first Graffiti Symposium last Saturday, March 29 at Confederation High School.

Graffiti is the etching, painting covering or otherwise placing of a mark on public or private property. The most common type of graffiti in Vanier is "tagging". The practice of tagging is the quick and repetitive writing, painting or "bombing" of a word, name, symbol or acronym that may or may not contain letters, numbers, or symbols.

It exists on many surfaces including bridges, buildings, walls, washrooms, utility boxes, mailboxes, vehicles, and in parks.

"The City of Ottawa has a program that will furnish people who want to remove graffiti on public property the right tools needed to do the job," said Paul McCann, Coordinator, Community Pride Program. "They can reach me at 613 580-24 ext. 13363 or by E-Mail at graffiti@management@ottawa.ca. The graffiti has to be on City property and we will help you embellish your City of Ottawa. After all we are the Nation's Capital."

Graffiti is a crime

When graffiti is placed on public or private property without the permission of the owner, it is considered an act of vandalism and is against the law.

Graffiti vandalism is not a victimless crime. When graffiti is left to spread in Vanier it can leave the impression that nobody cares or that nobody is in control. When graffiti is allowed to spread, it can harm economic development and lead to further disorder and more significant crime to property.

Tips to deter graffiti

As a property owner, there are measures you can take to deter graffiti. They include: plant vines; shrubs or thorny plants to limit access to walls; increase lighting and visibility; consider motion or sensor lights; move vehicles, dumpsters or other items away from walls; start up a Neighbourhood Watch program on your street.

Graffiti removal

Your property has been hit by graffiti? What to do? Well companies like Swiss on Don Reid Drive in Ottawa sell graffiti removal kits. Private property owners are responsible for the removal of graffiti from their own property.

How do I report graffiti?

If you see graffiti vandalism happening, it is considered a crime in progress and can and should be reported by calling 9-1-1. All hate-based graffiti should be reported to the Ottawa Police Service at 613 230-6211.



Paul McCann, Coordinator, Community Pride Program with the City of Ottawa and Philippe Tessier from the Swiss company who co-hosted the Graffiti removal symposium.

If you see graffiti on public property (parks, roads, street signs, utility boxes, newspaper boxes or Canada Post boxes), call the City of Ottawa at 3-1-1.

You can also report graffiti vandalism anonymously. Call Crime Stoppers at 613 230-8477 or 1-800-222-8477.